

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 7 and 9 stand rejected under § 102(e) on the basis of Senshu '099.

In addition, claims 3-6, 8 and 10 stand rejected under § 103 on the basis of Senshu and Horimai et al. Applicant has amended the independent claims to recite "wherein said consecutive numbers are in increments of one integer", which Senshu and Horimai et al. do not disclose or suggest.

The present invention provides an optical storage medium in which land tracks have a plurality of first ID portions respectively having first track addresses as consecutive numbers in increments of one integer (e.g. 1, 2, 3, 4...), and groove tracks have a plurality of second ID portions having second track addresses as consecutive numbers in increments of one integer. Claim 1 also recites that the lands and grooves are numbered independently of each other.

Accordingly, unlike Senshu '099, it is not necessary to switch servo conditions and recording/reproducing conditions between the tracks, thereby allowing an improvement in access speed. In the present invention, the number of shifts between the land tracks and the groove tracks is reduced, so head movement in the radial direction of the disk can be faster, thereby further improving access speed.

Senshu numbers its tracks and grooves consecutively in a land (1), groove (2), land (3), groove (4) fashion, which is not the track addressing system of the present

invention. In addition, Senshu does not number its tracks and grooves independently of each other. In column 3, lines 56-60 of Senshu, it is disclosed as follows:

With the present disc-shaped information recording medium, the address sections ADR1 associated with the odd tracks TR_{odd} and the address sections ADR2 associated with the even tracks TR_{even} are formed at circumferentially offset positions.

In column 4, lines 39-50 of the Senshu reference, it is disclosed as follows:

[I]t is possible to interchange the grooves and the lands once each turn of the track at the time of cutting for securing track continuity, as shown in FIGS. 7 and 8. The address section ADR1 may be provided adjacent to the groove at the transition area from the land to the groove, while the address section ADR2 may be provided adjacent to the land at the transition area from the groove to the land.

In the odd track TR_{odd} corresponding to transition from the land to the groove, the address information of the address section ADR1 is used, whereas, in the even track TR_{even} corresponding to transition from the groove to the land, the address information of the address section ADR2 is used.

Thus, it appears that the address sections ADR1 associated with the odd tracks TR_{odd} formed on the lands have addresses "1", "3", "5", and address sections associated with the even tracks TR_{even} formed on the grooves have addresses "2", "4", "6", In the case of both TR_{odd} and TR_{even} , assuming arguendo that the numbers are consecutive ("consecutive odd" and "consecutive even"), as the Examiner asserts, the increments between the consecutive numbers is two integers, not one integer. Further, regarding the access method of Senshu, if we start from land track "1", we then access adjacent groove track "2",

then land track "3", then groove track "4", and so on. Thus, Senshu discloses land tracks and groove tracks that are not numbered independently of each other.

Horimai et al. also discloses land tracks and groove tracks that are not numbered independently of each other (see col. 1, lines 63-65), or numbered consecutively from sector to sector, as the examiner apparently recognizes. Horimai et al. is merely cited for disclosing land tracks and groove tracks alternately formed and divided into a plurality of groups having addresses. For these reasons, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant believes that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicant's attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By



Laura R. Wanek
Registration No. 53,737

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300 South Wacker Drive
Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: 312.360.0080
Facsimile: 312.360.9315
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